

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 03094 121754Z

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 /012 W
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R 121710Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6688

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3094

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY GUARD

REF: STATE 210312

1. PLEASE ASK FORMER AMBASSADOR HOFFACKER OF DETAILS OF HIS UNDERSTANDING WITH GURC UNDER WHICH THE MSG WAS FIRST INTRODUCED TO EMBASSY YAOUNDE IN 1971. OUR FILES DO NOT REVEAL WHETHER THE UNDERSTANDING CONTAINED GURC RESTRICTIONS ON (A) CARRYING SIDEARMS INSIDE CHANCERY AND/OR (B) WEARING OF UNIFORMS DURING OFFICE HOURS. FILES REVEAL ONLY GENERAL INJUNCTION ABOUT MAINTAINING "LOW SILHOUETTE" AND "MAXIMUM DISCRETION" (YAOUNDE 2477, NOVEMBER 30, 1970).

2. UNDER CURRENT PRACTICE, MSG WEAR UNIFORMS ONLY AFTER OFFICE HOURS AND ON WEEKENDS WITHIN EMBASSY. THEY CARRY NO SIDEARMS AND CAN HAVE ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT-OWNED .38'S ONLY BY EXPLICIT PERMISSION OF AMBASSADOR.

3. IN VIEW OF REFTTEL, I AM CONSIDERING WHETHER TO CHANGE THESE PRACTICES AND MUST THEREFORE KNOW WHETHER AMB HOFFACKER GAVE CONTRARY UNDERTAKINGS TO GURC IN 1971, OR WHETHER GURC INDICATED GRADUAL ACQUIESCENCE TO SLIGHTLY RAISED MSG PROFILE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: CONTACT HOFFACKER IN HOUSTON AND INFORM US OF HIS RESPONSE ASAP, AS I WILL SOON BE CALLING ON PRIME MINISTER BIYA WHO WAS HOFFACKER'S INTERLOCUTOR ON THIS
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MATTER IN LATE 1970.

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